

### Principal's Bulletin, Term 2 2020-2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

This calendar year has been probably the most challenging time in many of our lives on a personal and professional level. As families, organisations and individuals we have had to plan for, adapt to and re-plan for situations that few would have conceived of just a year ago.

To date, the academic year has continued to follow this trend. But as an Academy we have been successful in keeping our doors open to staff and students. This is an extraordinary achievement in the face of the challenges we have all faced, especially considering that many schools in our local area have not been so fortunate. This success is part of a combined effort from staff, students and parents and carers to ensure that our safety procedures are followed and that our care for each other is always our highest priority. I'm hugely proud of the fact we have been able to work together as a community to keep one another safe, and I would like to thank you for all of your support in doing so.

I hope this edition of the Principal's Bulletin will give you some light reading and provide you an insight into some of the outstanding opportunities and successes Goodwin has had since September despite the Pandemic.

#### Pearson National Teaching Awards

Huge congratulations to our Assistant Head of Faculty for Maths, Miss Gaythwaite, who was awarded the Pearson's National Teaching Gold Award for the Outstanding New Teacher of the Year. This is a nationally recognised award, and the announcement of her win was televised on BBC's The One Show. Miss Gaythwaite was then interviewed on BBC Breakfast. As an Academy we are extremely proud of Miss Gaythwaite and all of the hard work she has done on behalf of the students; this award is richly deserved.



#### Children in Need

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November we raised some 'dough' for Children in Need by selling doughnuts. Overall, Goodwin Academy students raised an impressive £571.00 for the charity. Well done all involved, this is a great achievement.





### Remembrance Day

All students at Goodwin Academy made a poppy and wrote a personal message to thank those who have served and continue to serve our country and communities in troubled times. Our Prefect Team made the decision to create our amazing 'Wall of Remembrance'.

### Numeracy Workshops

I want to take this opportunity to thank those that took the time to complete the Survey Monkey sent out last term by Miss Gaythwaite for the Numeracy Workshops – it was extremely helpful. As I am sure you can understand, the workshops have been postponed due to the current situation and we will be in touch to keep you informed on a start date and how to sign up. Thank you for your continued support.

### GCSE Art and A Level Art

We have made a positive change across all exam years to GCSE and A level. This has had an instant impact with the quality of student outcomes as students have the freedom to explore the subjects and processes in the way that they wish to discover.

We have built a darkroom, a first for Goodwin Academy and students from year 11 and 12 have given it a good debut with lots of photograms and other experiments. We are hoping that this is the foundation to building Photography at Goodwin Academy at all levels and many more outcomes will be shown frequently on our twitter feed. [@Goodwin\\_ArtandDesign](https://twitter.com/Goodwin_ArtandDesign) / [@Goodwin\\_ArtDept](https://twitter.com/Goodwin_ArtDept) / [Twitter](https://twitter.com/Goodwin_ArtDept)



### British Sign Language Qualification

A group of 12 socially-minded sixth formers have decided to use their personal development time to become inclusive members of the community and learn sign language. They have enrolled on a Level 1 British Sign Language qualification, completing the course as a group studying, practising and taking assessments independently.

They are now able to have conversations with one another, introducing themselves, talking about jobs and asking questions. They've applied themselves brilliantly, and are working incredibly hard to make sure that Goodwin Academy can be a place that welcomes and embraces everyone, regardless of their background.

### Christmas Festivities

Goodwin students have embraced the idea of the festive season whole heartedly, focusing on helping those in the community that may be struggling, whilst bringing a little joy on the way. The JLT (Junior Leadership Team) led the student body in arranging Festive Friday, where students were allowed to come in non-school uniform in return for a donation of food or a festive gift. The student body responded amazingly and the lead prefects were able to create 70 hampers to gift to families that may need a little support. Along with a box of goodies we were able to give a £100 voucher to each family, these have been kindly donated by The Vinorium, a local company based in Lenham, Kent.

Another project that the JLT planned was Christmas card making, each tutor group made a giant card to be delivered to care homes in Deal. The lead prefects delivered the Christmas cards to Walmer Care Centre and St Winifred's, bringing some Christmas joy to the residents with their carol singing.

As part of the Sixth Form curriculum, students have an enrichment session once a fortnight where they are able to study/participate in something that is outside of the traditional curriculum. This year one group chose to create care packages for homeless and vulnerable people, working with the Salvation Army to distribute them.

Mrs Bradford said 'It is a real pleasure to see the students lead on projects that are benefiting the community, demonstrating that even through difficult times we can pull together and spread a little joy'.



### Remote Learning

Has your child had to self-isolate this term?

During your child's self-isolation period, your child should have completed schoolwork remotely. This may have been through 'live lessons', via MS Teams classrooms, through website links or paperwork packs.

At Goodwin Academy we are always trying to improve our remote learning provision.

Could you please spare a few minutes to complete the following survey:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha\\_kkmgEHn2jjmNvK63I9KhN9FDIFNmGVoYIYpURUhPV1dGNIMzOVpaWki3MEFMS1RYM1pHUi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jjmNvK63I9KhN9FDIFNmGVoYIYpURUhPV1dGNIMzOVpaWki3MEFMS1RYM1pHUi4u)

Your feedback is important to Goodwin Academy and will help us to continue to improve our remote learning provision.

### Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT) – Emotional Health Consultation Line

Have you noticed a change in your child's behaviour and worried they may be experiencing anxiety?

They may be:

- Finding it hard to concentrate
- Having trouble sleeping and/or a change in appetite
- Seeking constant reassurance
- Feeling nervous or on edge

If you feel your child is struggling and needs extra support, call the emotional health consultation line on 0800 011 3474 to speak to our team (option 1 then option 2). A school nurse will listen to you, provide basic coping strategies and if needed, support with a referral to the children and young people's (CYP) counselling service. Young people are also welcome to call the consultation line themselves, or if they prefer, they can text in confidence through our ChatHealth service on 07520 618850 (monitored 9am-5pm Monday to Friday).

### E-Scooters – Know the Law

e-scooters are classed as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), which means they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as driving licence, insurance, number plates, lighting, road tax, crash helmets etc. Without these, e-scooters cannot be used legally on the road. The Government is currently trialling the use of approved rental e-scooters as environmentally friendly modes of transport in some specific locations in the UK. For the rest of the country, under current law, e-scooters can only be used on private land.

### Nut Allergy

Please remember that we are a nut free school, the following items are prohibited:

- Packet nuts of any variety
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seeds (rolls, etc.)
- Cakes made with, or containing, nuts



Thank you for keeping our school safe!

### Stationary

To ensure your child can fully participate in lessons we recommend they have the 'essential' items on the poster below. To reduce shared resources between students, we also encourage students to own their own 'desirable' items.

Essential Items	Desirable Items
Black or blue ball point pen 	Pencil Sharpener 
Pencil 	Protractor 
Rubber 	Colouring Pencils 
Ruler 	Purple Pen 
Scientific Calculator 	
Your Student Planner is to be with you at all times and must be on the desk in all lessons. 	

### Term Dates

Please find below a reminder of the term dates until the end of the Academic Year.

Term 3	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Term 4	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February – Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021
Term 5	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 <b>Bank Holiday Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021</b>
Term 6	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021 <b>Staff Training Day – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021</b>



On behalf of the governors, Thinking School Academy Trust and the staff at Goodwin Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support. The success of any school is a team effort, with students, parents and staff all working together to ensure the best outcomes for our young people.

Happy New Year to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Smith  
**Principal**